

Title: Vailanna's Capture

Author:

Vailanna silently stood on the roof of the guard tower, her ice blue eyes roaming over the crowded throngs of people making their way through the town of Britain. Her face showed no emotion, her past training not allowing the conflict inside of her to show outwardly.

She found herself constantly coming to this place during the short periods of time that she was allowed to wander freely. "Why does this place feel like home.. but I remember none of it.." she wondered to herself. One of the towns guards gently tapped her on the shoulder, startling her out of her thoughts. She turned and faced the man, a sudden pain ringing in her head as her eyes laid on his uniform. She heard the man ask if she needed assistance, and despite the kindness in his eyes, she turned and raced blindly down the stairs, suddenly wanting only to escape the place.

She raced down the road out of town, stopping only when her lungs felt like they would burst. After catching her breath, she continued down the road and suddenly noticed she was in Stormhaven. Her eyes caught sight of the Citadel, and she again found herself thinking of Eldred Jonas, the warrior

that Rune Artisem and the others had brought to the Society's home. She had wondered how the man fared often since his return home, even going so far as to sneak into his room the night of his return...

Making her way toward the Citadel, her gaze fell upon the Shadow Knight, the creature crying out the news of the Sage of Spirituality. She leaned against the still sun warmed stones, quietly listening to the exclamations of surprise and horror, but knew not if it was caused by the knight or the news he bore. A few of the townspeople closed in her, some offering greetings to the stranger and others uttering threats. She paid none of them much mind, and was grateful when the knight quickly brandished his halberd, warning those who menaced her. Lost in thought she wondered to herself why she remained at this place, knowing no good would come of it, yet finding herself unable to tear herself away. As she considered the consequences of her master discovering she was here, her fingers reached up to her cheek, the purple bruise a still vivid reminder of her crossing Rune.

The sudden chill of a raised blade at her throat had her cursing to herself for her inattentiveness, and as her eyes raised, they fell upon Eldred standing

before her. Not flinching,
she tried to form the
words to make him
understand, yet her
thoughts were curtailed
by his harsh words.

Vailanna saw the knight's
form closing in on Eldred,
and she gave her head
the barest shake,
indicating to it to stand
down and let Eldred be.
As suddenly as he was
there, Eldred was gone,
giving her a cold look as
he spurred his mount
and was gone. She
watched the spot where
he had been until a small
group closed around her.
She found herself faced
with Shantel, the woman
who lead the
Stormguards, accompanied
by Huma Dragonbane, the
Regent's Sheriff. Hopeless
in trying to explain that
she came only to see
that Eldred was safe, but
she knew her words would
do nothing but fall upon
deaf ears. She was
eventually read her rights,
and the sheriff informed
her of the charges
brought against her, and
her wrists shackled,
Vailanna found herself
being led into the Citadel
itself... "I can only hope
he will understand.." she
thought to herself "and
may the Master not call
on my service until I get
myself out of this..."